

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. In years to come, this organization will remain an integral and powerful force that continues to enrich the business community for the benefit of all Sonoma Valley residents.

IN MEMORY OF DONNA FREEMAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to honor the memory of Donna Cook Freeman of Bodega Bay in my district, an energetic community activist from whose petite frame exuded a feisty kind of determination combined with warmth and humor that earned friends, political power and a long list of accomplishments.

Donna came to Bodega Bay a half-century ago as a young, poor and pregnant fisherman's wife with two small children in tow. She left Bodega Bay and this earthly plane on October 30, 2009 after two weeks of farewell visits from at least 150 friends. She was 72.

Donna Cook Freeman became involved in local politics in the early '60s in one of the earliest environmental battles of the modern era, the fight over the planned construction of a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head. Donna and several other "ordinary" townspeople and their friends took on the giant utility, and ultimately won after they exposed the danger of building the plant directly on the San Andreas Fault.

Remaining active in coastal issues, she served on the California Coastal Commission's advisory board for the county's coastal plan. She campaigned for a local assessment to provide paramedics for the Bodega Bay Fire Protection District. Later she served three terms as a director of the Fire District. She was also a founder of the Bodega Bay Fishermen's Festival, and served as president and a director of the Bodega Bay Chamber of Commerce, and for a decade served on the board of the Sonoma County Fair. She successfully fought for new port facilities for commercial and recreational fishermen that became Spud Point Marina.

She also created a special place in a scrub filled ravine at the foot of Bodega Head. She filled it with cool ferns, waving trees, rippling ponds, narrow foot bridges and a gazebo she salvaged from the set of Alfred Hitchcock's Bodega Bay-based classic film, "The Birds." This sheltered refuge she called "Compass Rose Garden," named both for the center of a compass and her mother. She raised her family in a cottage in the garden, and turned its verdant grounds into a place for weddings, family events, community celebrations, and political fundraisers that both advertised and expanded her political influence.

She served on the Democratic State Central Committee, and her endorsement was gold to numerous political candidates courting west Sonoma County votes. She served a vital role in ushering in progressive politics to the county when she successfully managed the campaign of former Sonoma County Supervisor Ernie Carpenter.

Last month she was diagnosed with advanced liver cancer and as her life ebbed away she made plans for a final celebration at Compass Rose Garden. It was not to be. Yet she leaves a legacy of progress, a legion of friends, and a loving family that includes her husband, Clarence Freeman, her two daughters Melinda McLees and Melissa Freeman; three sons, Scott Freeman, Kevin Freeman, and Steve Freeman; and their families, which include seven grandchildren; as well as her brother James Cook and a sister Dorothy Cook Hewett, and their families.

Madam Speaker, Donna Cook Freeman brought creativity, vibrancy and determination to every endeavor she took on. She led by her powers of persuasion and her personal magnetism. She was born in the Depression but was guided through her life by her joyous sense of possibility. When the boats are blessed at the next Bodega Bay Fishermen's Festival, we will think of her, and recall a spirit that could rise above the waves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, on December 14, 2009, I was unable to be in the chamber for two Rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 969, H. Res. 776, a resolution recognizing and supporting the goals of National Runaway Prevention Month and "yea" on rollcall No. 970, H. Res. 942, a resolution commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit a record of how I would have voted on December 14, 2009. Had I voted, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 969 and "yes" on rollcall No. 970.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was not present during rollcall votes 969 and 970 and voice votes on December 14, 2009 due to a pre-existing medical appointment. I would have voted: On rollcall vote No. 969 I would have voted "yea"; On rollcall vote No. 970 I would have voted "yea"; voice vote on S. 303 I would have voted "yea"; voice vote on H.R. 4284 I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, December 14, 2009.

Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 969 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 779), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 970 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 942).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, December 10, 2009, I missed rollcall No. 950. If present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MR. ARNOLD MINICUCCI

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Mr. Arnold Minicucci of Watertown, Connecticut.

For the last 59 years, Arnold Minicucci has been the proud owner and manager of Minicucci's Incorporated, a menswear clothier and downtown mainstay in Waterbury, Connecticut. This coming January, he will retire and close the store he took over from his father more than a half-century ago, ending one of Waterbury's most beloved and long-tenured businesses.

After returning from service during World War I, Arnold's father founded Minicucci's in Waterbury in 1919 as a maker of custom men's suits. Upon his return from service in the Navy during World War II, Arnold joined his father's business in 1946 and became full owner of the store four years later, transitioning the establishment into a retail suit seller. Soon thereafter, Arnold moved the store from East Main Street to its present location at 52 Bank Street. Throughout its history, Minicucci's has served mayors and governors alike, with loyal customers whose relationship with the store can be measured in decades.

Anyone who's spent any time living or working in Waterbury knows Arnold and his beloved wife, Mary, both of whom were born and married in the Brass City. They are true pillars of the community: former chairs of the Cancer Ball, long-serving members of the Immaculate Conception Church and the Exchange Club, and a driving force behind the construction of the Little League Stadium, to name but a few of their strong ties to Waterbury.

Every one of Arnold's hundreds of friends and loyal customers who attend his retirement

party early next year will receive a silver money clip engraved with the words "Minicucci's 1919–2009." That night, all those that have been touched by Arnold's work will celebrate him and his family's business. But, amidst the celebration, there will also be a palpable pang of sorrow—that they don't make businesses like Minicucci's anymore. Or men like Arnold Minicucci.

HONORING MILLIE KLAPEL OF ANDOVER, MINNESOTA, ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Millie Klapel of Andover, Minnesota, on the occasion of her upcoming 100th birthday this December 20, 2009. As friends and family gather to celebrate her life, I am pleased to share her accomplishments with this Congress today.

Millie has lived the American dream. She worked for one of Minnesota's favorite department stores, Dayton's, in the monogram department. In her free time Millie volunteered at her church and taught Sunday school class for over 60 years. She also visited shut-ins and served as a prayer warrior for those in need of support during difficult times. In her 90's, she was honored as runner up for Sunday School Teacher of the Year from the Assemblies of God churches.

Millie is an inspiration to her family, friends and community and has always put others first. Even at 100 years old, she still lives on her own and maintains her independence.

Madam Speaker, again, I'd like to wish Millie Klapel a happy 100th birthday and I ask this Congress to join with me in celebrating Millie's life.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,071,280,871,918.40.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,432,855,125,624.6 so far this year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Chair, years of abuse on Wall Street, manipulation of our financial markets and expansion of regulatory loopholes have harmed American consumers and businesses, leading to the global financial disaster last fall. As the U.S. House of Representatives sought to craft aggressive financial regulatory reforms, I worked with the relevant Committee Chairmen and Democratic leadership to end the abuses that have allowed Wall Street to profit at the expense of American consumers for far too long.

Unfortunately, H.R. 4173, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009, falls short of ending the practice of Wall Street speculators, big banks and the nation's largest financial houses (Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Bank of America and Citigroup) operating outside the watchful eye of federal regulators. Because this bill does not put an end to many of these abuses, I must oppose H.R. 4173.

As chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I have led a three-year-long investigation into the role speculators play in driving up the cost of energy. What we have learned from our investigation can be applied across the energy, commodity, and financial markets: As long as loopholes exist, speculators will manipulate markets and consumers will pay the price.

I fought for and made part of the American Clean Energy and Security Act regulatory reform for the energy and carbon markets. The provisions found in the Prevent Unfair Manipulation of Prices, PUMP, Act of 2009 should have served as a starting point for further reform of the unregulated over-the-counter derivatives markets known as "dark markets." Unfortunately, this legislative precedent and my amendments were ignored in favor of big money interests on Wall Street. But those of us who have spent time working on this issue know true regulatory reform cannot occur without bringing transparency to all markets and subjecting all financial transactions to federal oversight.

Therefore, I offered two amendments to H.R. 4173 to close loopholes and bring strong reform to the unregulated "dark markets." The first amendment required all trades to occur on an open marketplace, effectively bringing an end to "dark markets" so regulators could see the transactions. This most fundamental reform would have brought sunshine to the largest unregulated financial sector of our economy. For example, trades on the regulated markets totaled \$80 trillion in 2008 while

trades on the unregulated "dark markets" accounted for \$600 trillion, or 41 times the size of the entire U.S. economy. Regulators could not view the transactions, the contracts or the financial terms of these trades.

As Commodity Futures Trading Commission, CFTC, Chairman Gary Gensler noted in a letter supporting my amendment, "As a nation, we do not stand for this lack of transparency in other markets." Staunch opposition from Wall Street led to the amendment's defeat, despite Gensler's assertion that: "your (Stupak) amendment promotes the critical goal of promoting transparency without imposing any additional cost on business." Without providing our regulators the most basic tools they say they need to effectively monitor the markets, we cannot call H.R. 4173 a true reform bill.

My second amendment narrowed a loophole that banks and large financial houses use to avoid regulation, prohibited credit default swap contracts that threaten the stability of the financial markets, and prohibited illegal swap contracts from being considered valid in a court. A comprehensive financial regulatory reform bill has to close the loopholes that allow speculators to control the markets. In defeating my second amendment, speculators will be allowed to continue their abusive practices.

Defeating my second amendment was not Wall Street's only success in ensuring loopholes remain in place. Banks, large financial firms and speculators were able to push through an amendment authored by Congressman SCOTT MURPHY that widened the loophole banks can use to evade regulation.

Financial Services Committee Chairman BARNEY FRANK offered an amendment to ensure everyone trading in the markets has some "skin in the game" by requiring collateral be posted up front. The amendment was opposed by Wall Street and it ultimately failed.

Many parts of H.R. 4173 accomplish important financial reform, and I support efforts to protect consumers from predatory financial products and end taxpayer funded bailouts. The amendment process on the House floor offered the opportunity to strengthen the bill in a way that delivers true reform across all of our financial markets. Unfortunately, Wall Street succeeded in using this opportunity to weaken the bill and significantly dilute the impact the legislation would have on their practices.

If regulators cannot shine a light on "dark markets" and loopholes can be exploited by Wall Street, we are just a few years away from another economic crisis. Leaving "dark markets" unregulated, unchecked and unfazed allows speculators to dictate prices for goods ranging from gasoline to bread to life insurance, and leaves consumers vulnerable to these financial abuses.

Today "dark markets" operate like a casino, with a commercial business betting that the price of a product will move in one direction and a Wall Street bank betting against that price change. The only difference is that we actually regulate casinos. On Wall Street neither the company nor the